



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report**

16 June 2013 – 17 July 2013

18 July 2013

Maritime Crime/Piracy

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

1. (U) YEMEN: On 16 July, an underway chemical tanker experienced an attempted boarding approximately 16nm northwest of Mocha.

2. (U) TOGO: On 16 July, an underway product tanker was hijacked approximately 46nm southeast of Lome.

3. (U) GABON: On 14 July, an anchored chemical tanker was hijacked approximately 13nm off the port of Gentil.

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 July, an underway tug was boarded approximately 35nm northwest of the Anambas Islands.

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 July, an anchored chemical tanker experienced a suspicious approach approximately 5.4nm southwest of Fairway Buoy, Lagos Anchorage.

6. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 7 July, an anchored supply vessel was boarded and crew kidnapped in the vicinity of the New Calabar River.

7. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 5 July, an anchored bulk carrier was boarded on Lagos Port Road.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) **GULF OF ADEN:** Government of Japan convoy schedule for July and August 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) **GULF OF ADEN:** Korean Navy convoy schedule for July and August 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-374), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) **GULF OF ADEN:** Chinese Navy convoy schedule for July and August 2013. For further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) **GULF OF ADEN:** Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for July and August 2013. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammal.net, or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA:** No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN:** No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA:** No current incidents to report.

D. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA:** No current incidents to report.

G. (U) WEST AFRICA:

1. (U) TOGO: On 16 July, the Marshall Islands-flagged underway product tanker OCEAN CENTURION was hijacked at 05:29 N – 001:38 E, approximately 46nm southeast of Lome. Armed pirates in two speed boats approached, boarded, and hijacked the product tanker. They took hostage all the crew members, stole their personal belongings, ordered the Master to sail south, and then north towards the Togo/Benin border. The pirates then disembarked and escaped via a speedboat, 12nm from the coastline. The Togo Navy was informed about the hijacking and a patrol boat was dispatched, which escorted the tanker to Lome anchorage for investigation. Two crew members were injured during the incident and were transferred to a clinic for medical attention. (IMB, Fleetmon.com, Vesseltracker.com, news.odin.tc)

2. (U) GABON: On 14 July, the Malta-flagged anchored chemical tanker COTTON was hijacked approximately 13nm off Gentil Port. A reported 12 to 15 gunmen, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, hijacked the tanker and its 24 Indian crew members onboard. (OCL, Fleetmon.com, Vesseltracker.com, news.odin.tc)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 July, an anchored chemical tanker experienced a suspicious approach at 06:17 N – 003:21 E, approximately 5.4nm southwest of Fairway Buoy, Lagos Anchorage. Armed security personnel onboard the anchored chemical tanker noticed a small boat with an unknown number of persons approaching. When the small boat got to within 50 meters of the vessel, the armed security team fired one warning shot causing the boat to depart the area. (IMB)

4. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 7 July, gunmen boarded and kidnapped the crew of an underway supply vessel at 04:24 N – 007:03 E, in the vicinity of the New Calabar River. The incident took place as the vessel was transiting from Port Harcourt to Nembe. Initial reports state that the captain, chief engineer and a deckhand were taken hostage. (OCL)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 July, an anchored bulk carrier was boarded at 06:26 N – 003:23 E, on Lagos Port Road. Three armed men were reported to have separated part of the razor wire and gained access via a rope. The bosun spotted them and alerted the duty officer by radio. The bosun was subsequently wounded by the gunmen before other crew came to assist. The robbers escaped via speedboat. The injured crew member was hospitalized. (OCL, news.odin.tc)

6. (U) GUINEA: On 19 June, the anchored Norway-flagged general cargo ship LANGENES was boarded at 09:14 N – 013:57 W, approximately 2 nm southwest of Conakry. Five pirates, armed with machine guns, boarded a general cargo ship at anchor. They threatened the crew, stole ship's cash, crew personal belongings, and then escaped. All crew were reported safe. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) YEMEN: . (U) YEMEN: On 16 July, an underway chemical tanker experienced a suspicious approach by three skiffs at 13:28 N – 043:01 E, approximately 16 nm northwest of Mocha. The onboard security team took their position while non essential crew mustered in the citadel. The individuals in the skiff had weapons to include an RPG. The skiffs departed the area when the security team fired warning flares. (IMB)
2. (U) RED SEA: On 8 July, an underway bulk carrier experienced a suspicious approach at 13:10 N – 043:06 E, approximately 11 nm southwest of Mocha, Yemen. Armed security team on board the underway bulk carrier noticed two skiffs near the stern of the vessel, at a distance of 5-10 meters. Alarm sounded and the armed team fired warning shots, resulting in the skiffs moving away. (IMB, OCL)
3. (U) RED SEA: On 4 July, an underway bulk carrier experienced a suspicious approach at 12:59 N – 043:06 E, approximately 9 nm west of Halib, Eritrea. Two suspicious skiffs, with seven to eight persons, approached the bulk carrier and closed to four cables. It was observed that the skiffs had machine guns and long sticks; however, no ladders were sighted. The alarm was raised and the vessel increased speed, took evasive maneuvers, and activated the fire hoses. All non-essential crew retreated into the citadel. The on board armed security team fired warning shots, resulting in the skiffs moving away. (IMB, OCL)
4. (U) INDIA: On 30 June, an anchored bulk carrier was boarded at 22:58 N – 070:14 E, at the Kandla Inner Anchorage. Three to four robbers, in a boat, boarded the anchored bulk carrier. The Duty Officer noticed the boarding and immediately raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their waiting boat. During investigation, it was discovered that ship's stores were stolen. Port control was informed. (IMB, OCL)
5. (U) RED SEA: On 21 June, an underway merchant vessel experienced a suspicious approach at 15:02 N – 041:42 E, approximately 73 nm northwest of Al Hudaydah, Yemen. Weapons and ladders were sighted, as multiple skiffs approached at high speed. The embarked AST fired several warning shots. The skiffs aborted their approach and moved towards another merchant vessel, approximately 2 nm to their starboard. AST observed the other vessel take evasive action. When last seen, the skiffs were paralleling the course of the second merchant ship. (OCL)
6. (U) YEMEN: On 20 June, an underway merchant vessel experienced an aggressive approach by two skiffs at 12:42 N – 043:19 E, approximately 5 nm northwest of Birim Island. The first skiff with two pirates on board approached from the starboard side, while the second skiff with eight pirates on board approached from the port. Once the skiffs had closed in on the vessel, the armed security team fired two warning flares and a tracer round. The skiffs subsequently departed the area. No pirate weapons or ladders were seen on board the skiffs. (OCL)
7. (U) IRAN: On 17 June, an underway vessel experienced a suspicious approach at 25:33 N – 057:23 E, approximately 21 nm southwest of Bandar-e-Jask. Vessel reported being approached by two skiffs, coming within 20-30 meters of the vessels stern. No pirate paraphernalia was sighted, but the skiffs followed the vessel for 15-20 minutes. (OCL)

I. (U) **PERSIAN GULF**: No current incidents to report.

J. (U) **SOUTHEAST ASIA**:

1. (U) **INDONESIA**: On 12 July, the underway tug CREST APACHE and barge TERAS 3717 were boarded by eight pirates in a speedboat at 03:13 N – 104:58 E, approximately 35nm northwest of the Anambas Islands. The pirates were armed with guns and long knives. The pirates cut off the cables for the communication equipment, stole crew properties, cash, and escaped. One crew member has been reported missing. (IMB)

2. (U) **MALAYSIA**: On 10 July, the Malaysia-flagged underway tanker LG ASPHALT` 1 was boarded at 03:02 N – 104:18 E, approximately 12 nm northeast of Pulau Tioman. Approximately eight pirates, armed with guns and knives, boarded the underway tanker. They ordered the C/E to reduce speed to minimum and then mustered all the crew, including the bridge and engine room watch-officers in the mess room where they tied up the crews hands. The pirates then stole all crew and ship properties and cash, and left the ship an hour later. Ship's crew regained control of the vessel and sailed to Kemaman Port. No injuries to the crew. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

3. (U) **INDONESIA**: On 7 July, the Panama-flagged anchored tanker AFRAMAX RIO was boarded at 01:04 N – 103:38 E, at the Nipah Anchorage. Four robbers armed with knives boarded the tanker during STS operations. Duty crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm, resulting in the robbers escaping in their boat. Cargo operations stopped and all crew were mustered. Cargo operations resumed only after a thorough search of the vessel. (IMB, IMO)

4. (U) **INDONESIA**: On 4 July, the Liberia-flagged anchored bulk carrier SANKO MERCURY was boarded at 03:40 S – 114:25 E, at the Taboneo Anchorage. Three robbers, in a boat, boarded the anchored bulk carrier at the forecastle. Alert duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm; resulting in the robbers escaping empty handed. Port authorities were informed. All crew are safe. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

5. (U) **SINGAPORE**: On 1 July, an underway barge in tow was boarded while transiting the Singapore Strait. During subsequent routine rounds, the crew from the tug towing the barge noticed items from the barge missing. (IMB)

6. (U) **INDONESIA**: On 27 June, an anchored chemical tanker experienced an attempted boarding at 06:01 S – 106:53 E, at the Jakarta Tanker Anchorage. Alert crew on board the anchored chemical tanker spotted a wooden boat, with three robbers, armed with knives. The alarm was sounded and the fire hoses were activated; resulting in the boarding attempt being made unsuccessful. All crew are safe. (IMB, OCL)

7. (U) **INDONESIA**: On 20 June, the anchored Thailand-flagged LPG tanker SENNA JUMBO was boarded at 01:09 N – 103:38 E, at the Nipah Transit Anchorage. Five robbers, armed with knives, boarded the anchored LPG Tanker. Two robbers entered the engine room, while the others tried to break into the provision stores. On seeing the mess-man entering the provision store area, one robber caught him and threatened him with a knife, while the others escaped. The alarm was sounded and upon investigating, it was found that engine spares were stolen. All crew were safe. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

8. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 19 June, the anchored Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier OCEAN GARNET was boarded at 01:11 S – 117:12 E, at the Muara Jawa Anchorage, Samarinda. Deck watch keepers onboard the anchored bulk carrier noticed three to five robbers with long knives near the forecabin store. They raised the alarm and retreated into the accommodation. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their waiting boat. Upon investigation, it was discovered that ship's stores had been stolen. Port control was informed. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

9. (U) **MALAYSIA:** On 17 June, the underway Malaysia-flagged product tanker KING RIVER was boarded at 04:31 N – 113:52 E, approximately 8 nm west-northwest of Lutong, Sarawak. Approximately 8 to 10 pirates, armed with long knives, in a speed boat, approached and boarded the underway product tanker. The pirates were aggressive; beating most of the crew and tying up their hands. The Master's left palm was severely cut, while the C/O and C/Eng suffered minor cuts as well. The pirates cut the communication cables, and then ransacked the bridge and accommodation. They stole crew's and ship's properties, as well as cash before leaving the ship, after an hour. The vessel diverted to Miri Port, to provide medical assistance to the injured crew. A police report was lodged. (IMO, OCL)

10. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 16 June, the anchored Panama-flagged container ship CMA CGM KAILAS was boarded in the vicinity of 06:05 S – 106:54 E, at the Jakarta Cargo Anchorage. Four armed robbers boarded the anchored container vessel and attempted to force their way into the engine room, by breaking the padlock. Alert duty watchman sighted the robbers who then threatened and chased him. Luckily the duty watchman was able to enter the accommodation and alert the bridge officer, who raised the alarm. Later a thorough search of the vessel was conducted by the crew. Port authorities were alerted and all crew are safe. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN:** No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS:** No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters.com (Reuters), website
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Secure Anchorage Area West Africa (SAA)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) ICOD: 17 July 2013